



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/824,629 | 04/14/2004 | Joseph L. Tallal JR. | GM2:1007 | 6276 |
| 34725 | 7590 | 02/11/2008 | EXAMINER | |
| CHALKER FLORES, LLP | | | AHMED, MASUD | |
| 2711 LBJ FRWY | | | | |
| Suite 1036 | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| DALLAS, TX 75234 | | | 3714 | |
| | | | | |
| | | | MAIL DATE | DELIVERY MODE |
| | | | 02/11/2008 | PAPER |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/824,629 | TALLAL, JOSEPH L. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Masud Ahmed | 3714 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 April 2004.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-63 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 33-44 and 59-63 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-32 and 45-58 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 14 April 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

| | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.U.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-32 and 45-58, drawn to a system and method of a vending device with multi-level wagering system. Classified at 463 subclass 16 and 20.
- II. Claim 33-44 and 59-63, drawn to a system and method for a multi-level wagering account. Classified at 463 subclass 25.

1. Inventions of group I and group II are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct if they do not overlap in scope and are not obvious variants, and if it is shown that at least one subcombination are separately usable. In the instant case, subcombination group I has separate utility such as a system and method of a vending device with multi-level wagering system which differs from group II which is a system and method for a multi-level wagering account. In this instant case examiner would have to conduct multiple separate searches for the broadness of the claims, Therefore it would put an extra burden on the examiner. See MPEP § 806.05(d).
2. A telephone call was initiated by the examiner with the applicant's attorney Mr. Daniel Chalker on Jan 23rd, 2008 regarding the restriction election. Applicant's representative elected group I (claims 1-32 and 45-58) with traverse to be examined. Applicant is suggested to make the election in writing in response to this office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-3, 6-18 , 21-32 and 45, 47-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Packes, Jr. et al (US 6,319,122), in view of Oram et al (US 2004/0063494).

Regarding claims 1, 18 ,32 and 45, Packes discloses a gaming system providing payouts based on the activity of other players (col 2, lines 40-47); Packes further discloses each player is eligible to receive an increase play value on their account based on the activity or the sales price accepted on subsequent gaming session by other players, same way the multi-level marketing arrangement reward work (col 9, lines 57-67); Packes is silent on disclosing a machine that creates a multi-level wagering account coupled to the gaming machine. Oram teaches a prepaid gaming card or an account can be purchased at a retailer or at a kiosk (another word for vending machine) (para 0007). Packes discloses a player tracking card that is connected to player's account are tracked in order to identify the players and their accounts (col 9, lines 35-45); Packes further discloses each subsequent gaming sessions are tracked and monitored and players accounts are identified to credits the previous game session initiator accounts based on the sales price accepted or game played from the current user (col 8, lines 24-28 and col 10, lines 32-45). Packes

teachings of players' accounts and rewarding players based on the activities of other players are an alternative of setting up multi-level wagering accounts on a machine to be rewarded by other players' activities. Since the Oram and Packes are analogous in art because they are from the same field of endeavor, therefore it would have been obvious to an ordinary skilled artisan at the time of invention to modify Packes gaming machine to have an option for players to set up a multi-level wagering account on the gaming machine and integrate Oram's gaming card purchasing kiosk so that players can be rewarded for other player's activities and attract more players to join and play.

Regarding claims 2-3, Packes discloses a gaming machine where sales price of the game is accepted, in another word an wagering gaming machine where the processor and the data device integrated into the single device (col 10, lines 32-37). Oram teaches a prepaid gaming card or account device (para 0007). Therefore it would have been obvious to ordinary skilled artisan at the time of invention to integrate Oram's prepaid gaming card purchasing kiosk to Packes gaming machine to make it convenient for the players to create subsequent gaming wagering account.

Regarding claim 6 , 21 and 56, Packes teaches a gaming system with a player account that lets player wager or purchase the play on the gaming machine (col 8, lines 24-28) and provide the players information such as subsequent gaming session information (col 5, lines 15-20).

Regarding claims 7 and 22, Packes teaches a player identifier smart card associated with the players account (col 5, lines 22-28), a smart card is an alternative for a chip, RFID device, a token or a personal data assistant.

Regarding claim 8 and 23, Packes teaches an account number comprises a password or biometric data (col 5, lines 22-28).

Regarding claim 9 and 24, Packes teaches the one or more gaming machines are slot or video poker (col 11, lines 53-55); a network based game system that is accessible by one or more computer or server or a communication devices (col 4, lines 10-30).

Regarding claim 10, Packes teaches a network based accounting system associated with the network based gaming system (col 10, lines 45-47).

Regarding claim 11, 25 and 49, Packes teaches different predetermined payouts table and formula is used to randomly award the player for the subsequent playing session (col 4, lines 58-65 and col 3, lines 57-62).

Regarding claims 12-13 , 26-27 and 50-51, Packes teaches different predetermined payouts table and formula based on the subsequent session of the gaming, for example Packes teaches a bonus can have an increased probability of winning or free play on gaming machines based on other players activities (col 10 lines 7-17), which are just an alternative of having different levels of matrix in payouts formula.

Regarding claims 14-15 ,28-29 and 52-53, Packes discloses the recording of players playing session along with number of plays and statistics of the winning results from one or more gaming machines (col 7, lines 38-50).

Regarding claims 16, 30, 54-55 and 57, Packes teaches a subsequent gaming session where players results are associated with the players, upon players inserting

the identifier the player account information can be retrieved at a remote location, since its a network based game or players winning to be applied to wager or redeem for payout or exchanged for cash (col 8, lines 10-40 and col 10, lines 14-17). However Packes is silent on disclosing transferring winnings to another multi-level wagering account. Oram teaches a prepaid gaming card or account where players can transfer funds between different accounts. Since the Oram and Packes are analogous in art because they are from the same field of endeavor, therefore it would have been obvious to an ordinary skilled artisan at the time of invention to include Oram's fund transfer capability to Packes multi-level or subsequent wagering game system to give player flexibility of transferring winnings and playing using various accounts.

Regarding claims 17 ,31 and 58, Packes teaches the play value or the player account information can be accessed from a remote location (col 10 lines 45-47).

5. Claim 4 – 5 ,19-20 and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Packes, Jr. et al (US 6,319,122), in view of Arganbright et al (US 6,980,962).

Regarding claims 4 and 19, Packes is silent on teaching a multi-level wagering account that charges a portion of the price as a fee for the operator. It is very common and well known in the art of multi-level marketing that members are charged with a fee to join. Arganbright teaches a multi-level marketing system where members are charged with a fee for using membership benefits (col 27, lines 24-27), which is an alternative way of charging a player for purchasing game in the multi-level marketing concept.

Therefor it would have been obvious to ordinary skilled artisan at the time of invention to include the same concept of multi-level marketing to charge a fee to a player for purchasing gaming card or account to Packes subsequent gaming session to benefit the operator.

Regarding claim 5 and 20, Arganbright discloses annually paid members are entitled to members reward program and points or rewards are accrued based on their activities (col 63, lines 57-67). It is known in any art that members benefit or rewards are tied to members account, and if it is paid members account, members must keep the account active in order to keep the rewards. Therefore it would have been obvious to ordinary skilled artisan at the time of invention to include an expiration period for the purchased game for the players to keep them coming back to play more gaming session or lose values of the purchase session to the operator.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MASUD AHMED whose telephone number is (571)270-1315. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:00am-5:00pm, Alt Fri, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan Thai can be reached on 571 272 7147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M. A./
Examiner, Art Unit 3714

/Scott E. Jones/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3714